

Message

From: Knapp, Kristien [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8D4AB10C47264BCA8B12174CDB981942-KKNAPP]
Sent: 9/27/2021 10:44:08 PM
To: Rebekah.Jones@mail.house.gov
CC: Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]; Laverdiere, Maria [Laverdiere.Maria@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Sven-Erik [Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Chair Pallone, Chair DeGette and Chair Tonko
Attachments: 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Response).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure2_Memo to OIG and SIO_8.5.21).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure3_Memo to OIG_8.31.2021).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure4_Memo to OCSPP_3.10.2021).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure5_Scientific Integrity Memo_3.23.2021).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure6_Whistleblower Protection Statement_4.29.2021).pdf; 2021-09-27 EPA-HEC (TSCA Enclosure1_Memo to OIG and SIO_7.2.21).pdf

Hi Rebekah,

Attached please find EPA's initial response to Chairs Pallone, DeGette, and Tonko. Please reach back out to us with any follow-up questions. We look forward to helping you engage with EPA on these issues.

Thanks,
Kristien

Kristien G. Knapp
Legislative and Oversight Counsel
Office of Congressional Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jones, Rebekah" <Rebekah.Jones@mail.house.gov>
Date: August 17, 2021 at 11:16:07 AM CDT
To: "Adhar, Radha" <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>
Subject: Correspondence from Chair Pallone, Chair DeGette and Chair Tonko

Dear Radha,

Attached please find correspondence from Chair Pallone, Chair DeGette, and Chair Tonko regarding the recent whistleblower allegations related to EPA's chemical safety program. Please confirm receipt and please also let us know potential dates for the requested briefing.

Best regards,

Bekah

Rebekah Jones
Oversight Counsel
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rebekah.Jones@mail.house.gov
(202) 878-1111



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

September 26, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Climate
Change
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairmen and Madam Chair:

Thank you for your August 16, 2021 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding allegations of numerous violations of scientific integrity by staff and managers in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP).

Since my first day at EPA in January 2021, I have been deeply impressed by—and grateful for—OCSPP staff's integrity, professionalism, and unmatched commitment to public service and the public good. One of my top goals, expressed during my confirmation process and upon joining EPA, is to ensure the highest level of scientific integrity across OCSPP. I have been particularly pleased to see OCSPP career professionals speak strongly in support of scientific integrity. Science is the backbone of our work at EPA, and scientific integrity is a bedrock principle for President Biden, Vice President Harris, Administrator Regan, and me. Scientific integrity ensures that our science is sound and that we earn and maintain the public's confidence in our decision-making.

The allegations highlighted in your letter concern me deeply, as scientific integrity is essential to our work in OCSPP. I am committed to ensuring that these matters are reviewed and fully evaluated. After receiving the document entitled "Congressional Disclosure on Fraud and Corruption in OCSPP" that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) submitted to Representative Ro Khanna, Chair of the Subcommittee on Environment of the House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, I transmitted the document to EPA's Inspector General and EPA's Scientific Integrity Official on July 2, 2021. I made clear in my transmittal that OCSPP is committed to supporting any investigation or other activity that those offices initiate. On July 14, 2021, the Inspector General informed the Deputy Administrator that it planned to initiate an inquiry into EPA's chemical risk assessments conducted under TSCA raised in the PEER document. *See Project Notification Ltr 7.14.21*. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is now in the best position to comment on the veracity of the allegations. On August 5 and 31, 2021, I similarly transmitted to the OIG two additional complaints from PEER which relate to the issues raised in the first PEER complaint that I forwarded to OIG in early July. While OIG is considering these complaints, I cannot further comment on the allegations themselves.

Although I cannot discuss the specific allegations, I want to reemphasize that they are very concerning to me and assure you that we are taking steps to identify and address any systemic organizational, cultural, scientific, or managerial weaknesses in OSCPP. For example, OCSPP has engaged an outside vendor that will invite current and past employees in the New Chemicals Division to meet with them (both individually or in groups) to identify workplace barriers, opportunities for improvement, and suggest changes. This work will begin in the coming weeks, and we will use the vendor's report as we consider changes to our policies, practices, organization, and approaches. I commit to keeping you apprised of this and other efforts.

You also requested information about whether OCSPP is considering reevaluating any of its new chemicals' decisions. OCSPP has begun an assessment of a number of previous approaches and practices related to new chemicals decisions, with a particular focus on PFAS, to ensure that these were sufficiently protective of human health and the environment. I commit to keeping you apprised as the results of these efforts become available. In addition, in March and April 2021, OCSPP made several announcements regarding strengthening the review and risk management policies associated with the TSCA New Chemicals program, including ensuring necessary protections for workers through regulatory means.

I also appreciate your letter as an opportunity to engage with you on scientific integrity in OCSPP and inform you about the actions I have taken to demonstrate my commitment to scientific integrity since I joined the Agency in January 2021. After seven weeks at the Agency leading OCSPP—on March 10, 2021—I issued an office-wide memo affirming my commitment to acting with scientific integrity and asserting my expectation that all OCSPP staff, likewise, embody the principles and spirit of scientific integrity in their work with me and each other. I provided concrete examples of the type of situations in our work where I expect scientific integrity to operate at the forefront. I asked staff to engage in robust exchanges of scientific views, give honest assessments in briefings, point out and address errors early and throughout our processes, respect the role of science in risk assessments and risk management, ensure the integrity of scientific products, provide clear and real-time communications with scientists, be mindful of statutory and other deadlines in our regulatory program, and promote an environment where everyone can feel free to express their opinions without fear or political interference. I also identified three specific instances where political interference had compromised the integrity of OCSPP science in recent years: the 2018 dicamba registration decision, the 2020 draft trichloroethylene (TCE) risk evaluation, and the January 2021 perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) toxicity assessment. I shared these instances of past compromised scientific integrity alongside the previously noted

examples of good scientific integrity practices to establish a new day of scientific integrity in OCSPP. At this moment of reset at EPA, including within OCSPP, re-establishing science as the backbone of our regulatory decision-making while emphasizing open communication, trust, and transparency is of the utmost importance. All of us in OCSPP are responsible for ensuring the scientific integrity of our work, and all of us are responsible for creating a work environment where everyone feels free to speak up and engage on issues without fear.

Following my March 10 email, OCSPP began an office-wide effort to re-establish scientific integrity as a core value in OCSPP's work and culture. We have since held office-wide and small-group trainings on scientific integrity issues, emphasized the need to have sound science bases for all our science decisions, and explained the importance of transparently communicating to staff and managers the reasons for any changes to scientists' work. We have highlighted the process for presenting and considering Differing Scientific Opinions and begun to facilitate resolutions of these types of scientific disagreements.

Building on this work, we are planning to hold office-wide whistleblower protection trainings in OCSPP as well. Protecting the rights of federal employees is a focal point of President Biden's agenda, as outlined in Executive Order 14003. I am committed to protecting employee rights, including the right of all OCSPP staff to be free from prohibited personnel practices and retaliation for whistleblowing. Administrator Regan issued a statement to the EPA workforce on April 29, 2021, regarding whistleblower protection. The purpose of his memorandum was to ensure the Agency's employees are aware of and understand the prohibited personnel practices and whistleblower protections available to them as federal employees. Like Administrator Regan, I support EPA employees' rights to make lawful disclosures to anyone, including management officials, EPA's Inspector General, Congress, or the Office of Special Counsel. I remain committed to making sure all OCSPP employees are aware of their rights as well as the safeguards in place to protect them. I am currently exploring ways to highlight these rights and protections in OCSPP as part of my commitment to restoring the role of law and scientific integrity at EPA.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in these issues. As I have said many times in many forums, restoring scientific integrity and empowering employees in OCSPP are incredibly important to me. I look forward to continued engagement with your offices as we endeavor to re-earn and maintain the public's confidence in our decision-making.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Kristien Knapp in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Knapp.Kristien@epa.gov or (202) 564-3277.

Sincerely,

MICHAL
FREEDHOFF

 Digitally signed by MICHAL
FREEDHOFF
Date: 2021.09.26 12:26:26 -04'00'

Michal Freedhoff, PhD
Assistant Administrator

Enclosures



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

August 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmission of Document entitled "Disclosure DeGette 8-3-21 (Final)"

FROM: Michal Freedhoff, PhD
Assistant Administrator

TO: Sean O'Donnell
Inspector General

Francesca T. Grifo, PhD
Scientific Integrity Official

MICHAL

FREEDHOFF

Digitally signed by
MICHAL FREEDHOFF

Date: 2021.08.05
14:49:07 -04'00'

On August 3, 2021, I received the accompanying "Disclosure DeGette 8-3-21 (Final)" that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility ("PEER") submitted to Representative Diana DeGette, Chair, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce. In accordance with EPA Order 3120.5 and the Office of the Science Advisor's Procedures between the Scientific Integrity Office ("SIO") and the Office of the Inspector General ("OIG") regarding Research Misconduct Allegations, I am writing to transmit that document to you. I also transmit a copy to EPA's Scientific Integrity Official.

Like the document I transmitted to you on July 2, 2021, this document alleges violations of scientific integrity by career staff and managers in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). I reiterate the commitments I made to you on July 2, 2021 to support any investigation or other activity that you may initiate with respect to this document.

I also remain committed to ensuring the highest level of scientific integrity across OCSPP. For example, on July 14, I sent an email to all OCSPP staff stating (in part) that "OCSPP Senior Leaders are considering what changes should be made to OCSPP's work processes to ensure we remain closely aligned with EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy. With this in mind, your OCSPP Senior Leaders are planning other ways to gain a better understanding of any challenges you may be facing while performing the important work you do within OCSPP. We will soon engage an outside vendor to help us in this effort. We will begin this effort with OPPT's New Chemicals Division and will expand to other parts of OCSPP over the coming months." Additionally, on July 15, OCSPP conducted an office-wide Scientific Integrity training on Differing Scientific Opinions to reinforce the importance of robust scientific debate and the

need in OCSPP for an environment – led in the first instance by OCSPP managers – where everyone feels comfortable identifying errors, asking questions, and expressing differing scientific opinions.

Thank you for the very important work you do for EPA.

cc: Rick Keigwin



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

August 31, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmission of Document entitled "Three ChemistsDisclosure-08-31-21"

FROM: Michal Freedhoff, PhD
Assistant Administrator

**MICHAL
FREEDHOFF**

Digitally signed by MICHAL
FREEDHOFF
Date: 2021.08.31 13:57:53 -04'00'

TO: Sean O'Donnell
Inspector General

On August 31, 2021, I received the accompanying "Three ChemistsDisclosure-08-31-21" document that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said they submitted to you and planned to submit to Representative Diana DeGette, Chair, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to Congressman Ro Khanna, Chair, Environmental Subcommittee, House Committee on Oversight and Reform. In accordance with EPA Order 3120.5, I am writing to transmit that document to you.

This document contains information related to the two previous disclosures I recently transmitted to you, stating that it "presents evidence of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) managers in the New Chemicals Division (NCD) of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) altering a risk assessment without the assessors' knowledge."

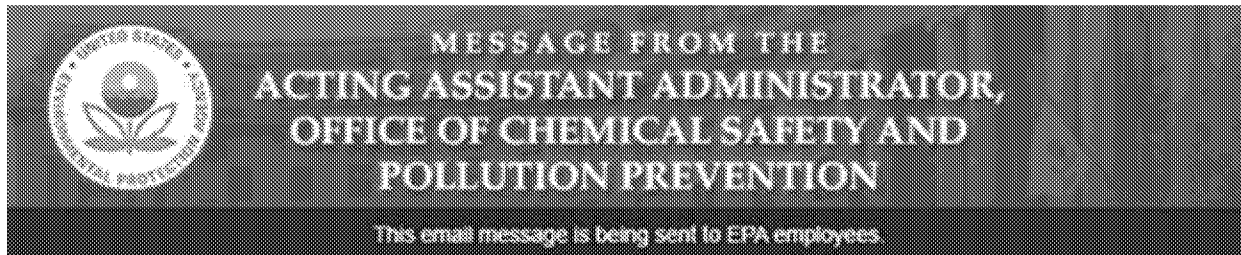
I reiterate the commitments I made to you on July 2, 2021 and August 5, 2021 to support any investigation or other activity that you may initiate with respect to this document.

Thank you for the very important work you do for EPA.

Message

From: Tyler, Tom [Tyler.Tom@epa.gov]
on behalf of Freedhoff, Michal [Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/10/2021 8:38:29 PM
Subject: Scientific Integrity (Corrected Links)

Flag: Follow up



Dear OCSPP Colleagues – By now, I’ve been a part of the OCSPP team for nearly seven weeks, and I continue to be deeply impressed by and grateful for your integrity, professionalism, and unmatched commitment to public service and the public good.

I have been particularly pleased to see OCSPP career professionals speak strongly in support of Scientific Integrity. As you know, science is the backbone of EPA. Scientific integrity, in turn, is a bedrock principle for President Biden, Vice President Harris, our incoming Administrator Michael Regan, and me. Scientific Integrity ensures that our science is sound and that we earn and maintain the public’s confidence in our decision-making. I affirm my commitment to you to act with scientific integrity. I expect you to do likewise when working with me and with each other.

Our work as a science-based regulatory office requires us to embody scientific integrity in many contexts. For example, I expect:

- Robust exchange of scientific views, with differing scientific opinions expressed in writing early and shared with managers throughout the process, including me.
- Truth-telling in briefings: what do I and other managers need to know?
- Courage to point out errors early in the process and a welcoming attitude by managers and peers to those communications.
- Respect for the role of science in risk assessments and the role of policy and law in risk management decisions. This requires the assurance that risk management considerations aren’t the driving influences during the risk assessment phase, and it requires respect among scientists when difficult policy choices are ultimately made.
- Integrity of scientific products.
- Clear, real-time communication with scientists to explain senior scientists’ changes to draft scientific products and an opportunity for scientists to express a different view.

- Understanding that, as a regulatory office, we also need to be mindful of statutory and other deadlines.
- An environment – led in the first instance by OCSPP managers – where everyone feels comfortable identifying errors, asking questions, and expressing differing scientific opinions, all without fear either of retaliation or being denigrated for speaking up.
- An environment free from political interference in the science.

Over the past few years, I am aware that political interference sometimes compromised the integrity of our science. Here are examples:

2018 Dicamba Registration Decision: In 2018, OCSPP senior leadership directed career staff to: (1) rely on a limited data set of plant effects endpoints; (2) discount specific studies (some with more robust data) used in assessing potential risks and benefits; and (3) discount scientific information on negative impacts. This interference contributed to a court’s vacating registrations based on these and other deficiencies, which in turn impacted growers’ ability to use this product.

TCE: White House staff directed OCSPP career staff to alter the draft TCE risk evaluation to change the point of departure used for making determinations of risk to a less sensitive endpoint. While the risk evaluation included a description of the more sensitive endpoint (fetal heart malformations), it was no longer used to determine whether there is unreasonable risk from TCE. Unreasonable risks were nevertheless identified for most uses of TCE, but the magnitude of the risk from exposures to TCE would have been greater had EPA relied upon the fetal cardiac defect endpoint that had been used in previous EPA peer-reviewed assessments.

PFBS Toxicity Assessment: The PFBS Toxicity Assessment that was recently removed from EPA’s website included conclusions purporting to reflect science when in fact they were the product of biased political interference directed in part by OSCPP’s past political leadership. That interference undermined the agency’s scientific integrity policy and eroded the trust that the American public has in EPA, the quality of our science, and our ability to protect their health and the environment.

This is a new day, about communication, trust, transparency and the importance of science in our regulatory decision-making process. All of us are responsible for ensuring the scientific integrity of our work. All of us are responsible for creating a work environment where everyone feels free to speak up without fear.

To this end, I encourage you to read the [Scientific Integrity Policy](#). I encourage you to browse the Office of Scientific Integrity [Intranet Page](#) and refresh your knowledge by studying their resources and whiteboards. And please don’t hesitate to contact OCSPP’s Deputy Scientific Integrity Officer, Carol Ann Siciliano, at siciliano.carolann@epa.gov or (202) 564-5489, or EPA’s Scientific Integrity Officer, Francesca Grifo at (202) 564-1687 (office) or (202) 657-8575 (mobile).

I also encourage you to attend the OCSPP Scientific Integrity Training series being launched by Carol Ann. You’ll see more information about that shortly. The first session will feature a presentation and Q&A with Francesca Grifo. The second session will talk about ways to express and resolve Differing Scientific Opinions (DSO). Explore the DSO toolkit [here](#). We also plan a training on Whistleblower protections. Get to know your rights [here](#). More training subjects will follow.

Just as important, let's make Scientific Integrity part of our daily work and our daily conversations. You can count on me. And I know that I can count on you – managers and staff, scientists and non-scientists – to do the same.

All the best,
Michal

Michal Freedhoff, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Dear Colleagues,

Science and law form the backbone of policymaking at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agency's scientific integrity policy, written in 2012, notes that EPA's "ability to pursue its mission to protect human health and the environment depends upon the integrity of the science on which it relies." Today, I am reaffirming scientific integrity as a core value at EPA and outlining concrete steps to reinforce the agency's commitment to science.

On January 27, 2021, President Biden issued a *Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking*, wherein he stated: "It is the policy of my Administration to make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data." That principle should guide all of us as we pursue EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment.

President Biden's memorandum directs all federal agencies and departments to take several actions to ensure our work adheres to the highest level of integrity. EPA's Science Advisor and Scientific Integrity Official are leading a dedicated team to implement the memorandum, including:

- Reviewing and evaluating the agency's scientific Federal Advisory Committees to ensure they include top-tier experts to provide independent scientific and technological advice and have instituted proper safeguards against conflicts of interest.
- Reviewing and updating any agency policies, processes, and practices that impede the development of critical scientific assessments and prevent the best available science and data from informing the equitable delivery of programs. As we undertake this review, I will be providing additional direction and guidance to the agency's senior leaders.
- Building on the agency's existing commitment to evidence-based policymaking by fostering a culture of evaluation and continuous learning.

Rigorous analysis and the frank expression of scientific views is a legitimate and necessary aspect of the scientific endeavor. Challenging ideas and assumptions guards against inadequate science, flawed analysis, and insufficient evidence. In contrast, manipulating, suppressing, or otherwise impeding science has real world consequences for human health and the environment. When politics drives science rather than science informing policy, we are more likely to make policy choices that sacrifice the health of the most vulnerable among us.

I pledge to be an Administrator who encourages the open exchange of differing scientific and policy positions. I also promise you that retaliation, retribution, intimidation, bullying, or other reprisals will not be tolerated.

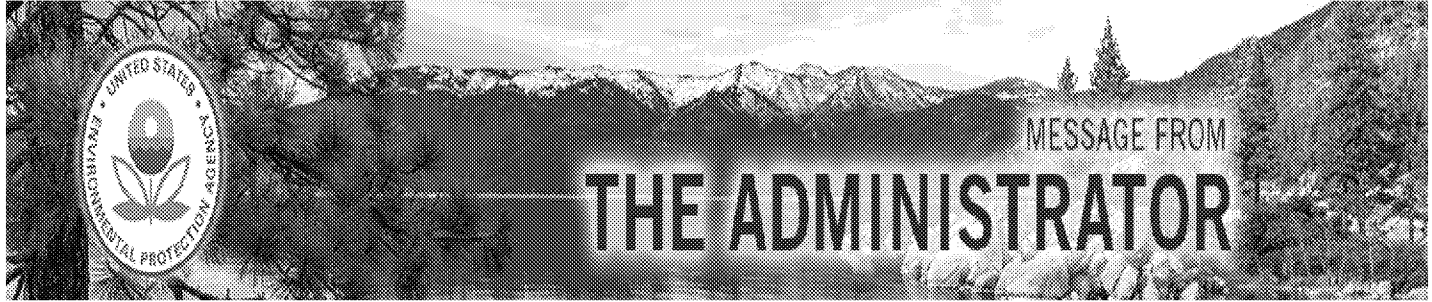
Scientific integrity is everyone's responsibility, from career staff and political appointees to contractors and grantees. In that spirit, I want to hear from all EPA employees. I have two asks of you:

- The President's scientific integrity memorandum requires the agency to review and update any EPA reports, data, and other materials issued or published that are inconsistent with the Biden Administration's commitment to scientific integrity. Please bring any items of concern to the attention of your deputy scientific integrity official or Francesca Grifo, EPA's Scientific Integrity Official. Scientific integrity issues can also be confidentially reported to the EPA Office of the Inspector General. The hotline number is 1-888-546-8740.
- In the coming weeks, you will receive an invitation to respond to an agency scientific integrity survey. Please give us your perspective on this important issue so that we may better continue to improve our work in this critical area. You can also [join](#) the 2021 Agency-wide Annual Meeting on Scientific Integrity on **March 31st from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET**.

We all are at EPA because of our commitment to its mission to protect human health and the environment. Please know the depth of my respect and appreciation for all of you who work tirelessly to ensure our science is of the highest quality and use it to inform our decision-making.

Michael S. Regan
Administrator

[Home](#) » [Mass Mailers](#) » Whistleblower Protection Statement



This email is being sent to EPA employees.

Whistleblower Protection Statement

April 29, 2021

Colleagues,

Protecting your rights as federal employees is a focal point of President Biden's agenda, as outlined by [Executive Order 14003](#). I am also committed to protecting employee rights, including your right to be free from prohibited personnel practices and retaliation for whistleblowing.

The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure agency employees are aware of and understand the [prohibited personnel practices](#) and whistleblower protections available to all federal employees.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent agency protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, including whistleblower retaliation and unlawful hiring practices. OSC also provides an independent, secure channel for disclosing and resolving wrongdoing in federal agencies.

The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 and the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 provide the right for all covered federal employees to make whistleblower disclosures and to ensure employees are protected from whistleblower retaliation. The Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 and OSC's Reauthorization Act of 2017 further enhance and reinforce these rights and protections.

Whistleblowing is defined as the disclosure of information an employee reasonably believes evidences:

- A violation of any law, rule or regulation.
- Gross mismanagement.
- Gross waste of funds.
- An abuse of authority.
- A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.
- Censorship related to scientific research or analysis.

Employees may make lawful disclosures to anyone, including, for example, management officials, the Inspector General of an agency or OSC.

Please review the fact sheet, [Your Rights as a Federal Employee](#), for detailed information on the fourteen prohibited personnel practices and employees' rights to file complaints with OSC. Additionally, I encourage you to review

[Know Your Rights When Reporting Wrongs](#), for different avenues to make whistleblower disclosures as federal employees. More information can also be found on the [OSC website](#).

EPA is committed to making sure all employees are aware of their rights as well as the safeguards in place to protect them. Thank you for your attention.

Michael S. Regan
Administrator

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**Environmental Protection Agency
(EPA)**



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 2, 2021

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmission of Document entitled "Congressional Disclosure on Fraud and Corruption in OCSPP"

FROM: Michal Freedhoff, PhD
Assistant Administrator

**MICHAL
FREEDHOFF** Digitally signed by
MICHAL FREEDHOFF
Date: 2021.07.02
13:44:41 -04'00'

TO: Sean O'Donnell
Inspector General

Francesca T. Grifo, PhD
Scientific Integrity Official

On June 28, 2021, I received the accompanying "Congressional Disclosure on Fraud and Corruption in OCSPP" that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility ("PEER") submitted to Representative Ro Khanna, Chair, Oversight Environment Subcommittee, House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Per the attached, PEER has requested that the Chair provide the Office of Inspector General a copy of the attached document. I am writing to transmit that document to you. I also transmit a copy to EPA's Scientific Integrity Official.

The document alleges numerous violations of scientific integrity by career staff and managers in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). These allegations concern me deeply as scientific integrity is essential to our work.

I am committed to ensuring that these matters are reviewed and evaluated fully. OCSPP is committed to supporting any investigation or other activity that your offices may initiate associated with PEER's document.

I am also committed to ensuring the highest level of scientific integrity across OCSPP. In addition to my email of March 10, 2021, in which I set forth my expectations for all OCSPP managers and staff, OCSPP's Deputy Scientific Integrity Official has led office-wide and small-group trainings on scientific integrity issues, emphasized the need to have sound scientific bases for all our science decisions, and explained the importance of transparently communicating to staff and managers the reasons for any changes to scientists' work. She has also emphasized the process for presenting and considering Differing Scientific Opinions and has facilitated resolution of one such disagreement. We will continue this vital work. Please consider OCSPP leadership to be your partners in our shared commitment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please let me know.

Attachment

Cc: Janet McCabe
Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta
Rick Keigwin
Carol Ann Siciliano